

3-2015

# Cedars, March 2015

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# CEDARS

The Award-Winning Student News Publication of Cedarville University

March 2015

## EVERYONE CAN PLAY



THEATRE, MUSIC RELY ON NON-MAJORS TO COMPOSE ENSEMBLES

**Brian Johnson:**  
From the 'Ville  
to 'The Voice'



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# Table of Contents

March 2015 / Vol. 67, No. 8

Cedars Digital: What You Missed Online **3**

Art to Reflect the Creator **4-5**

Muslim Ministry Org Equips Students **6-7**

Review: 'Doubt: A Parable' **8**

Student Spotlight: Victoria Stapleton **9**

'The Village' Expands, Rebrands **10-11**

Missions Orgs Provide Creative Opportunities **12**

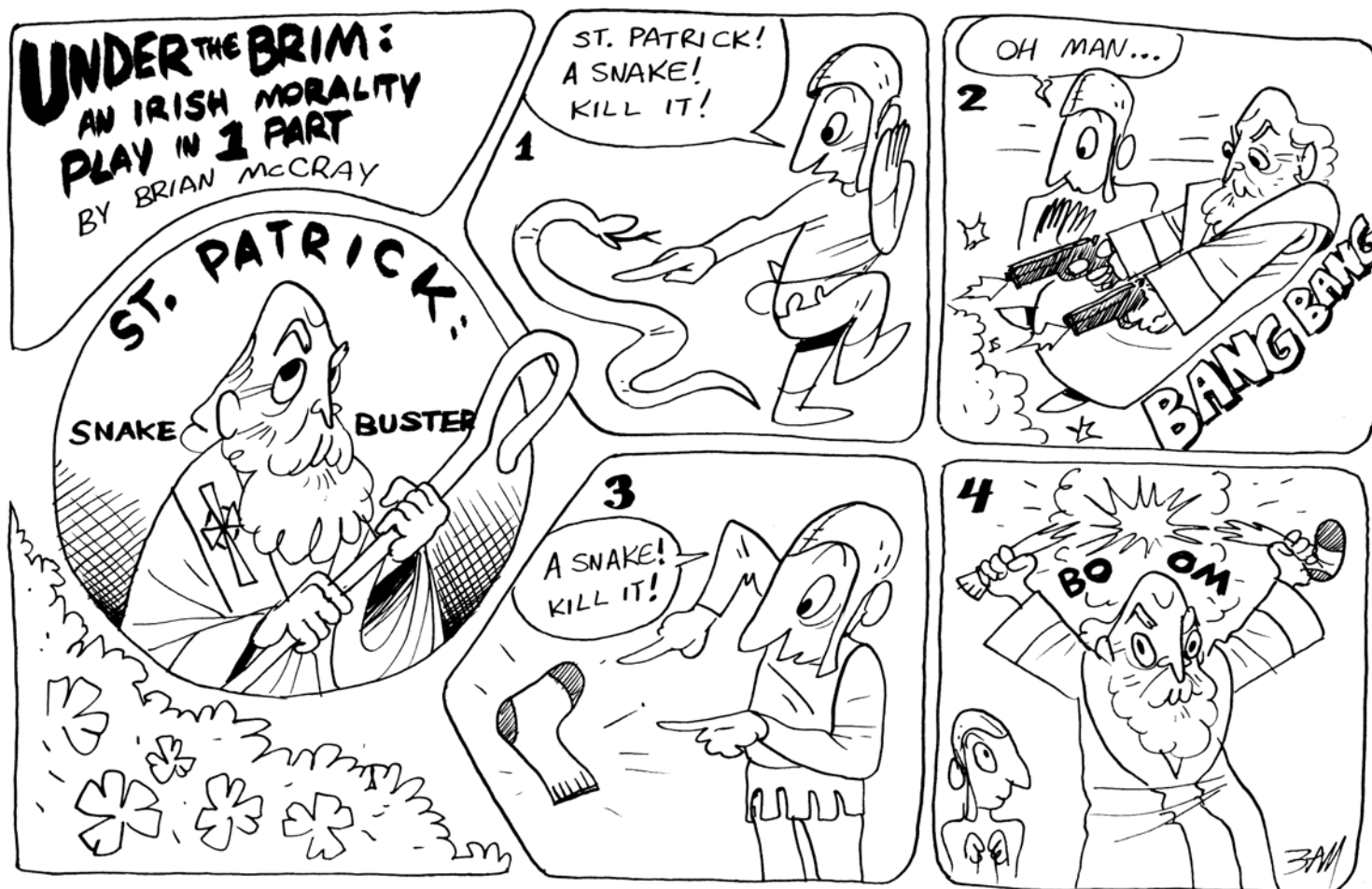
Review: 'The Battle of the Five Armies' **13**

Grad Mixes Faith, Music on 'The Voice' **14-15**

Making the Doughnut Rounds **16-17**

New Zealand, New Zeal **18**

Just Sayin': Lollipop **19**





by Mary Kate Browning

## Top Online Story for March

**#TeamBrian Joins #TeamBlake on NBC's 'The Voice'** by Anna Dembowski

25,760 people reached

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Cedarville alumnus Brian Johnson joined #TeamBlake on tonight's episode of NBC's "The Voice."

Johnson, a 2012 grad, covered "Reason to Believe" during the show's blind audition segment, which will continue Monday at 8 p.m.

Johnson didn't make an appearance until just 20 minutes remained in the two-hour show, but his performance surely touched fans, musical coaches and family members.

[Read the full article at ReadCedars.com](#)



For more news about Brian, check out "The Voice" section of our website. For live-tweeting during his on-air performances, follow @CedarsatCU on Twitter.

## Cedars Wins 8 Awards at Society of Professional Journalists Competition

by Staff

Cedars staff members combined to win eight awards for their work during 2014 in the Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence regional competition. The awards were presented Saturday at the regional conference at Ohio University.

Photographer Jillian Philyaw placed first in two categories, feature photography and general news photography. Reporters Lauren Eissler, Emily Finlay and Madison Troyer won the in-depth reporting category for a package of stories about the costs of accreditation. Jon Gallardo won the sports writing category for a feature story about soccer and basketball player Connor Scott.

The winners will be entered in SPJ's national competition against the winners from the other 11 regions. Cedars won five regional awards last year and earned first place for an in-depth report in the national competition.

Cedars competes in the small-school

division against schools with enrollments of fewer than 10,000. Cedars' eight awards were the most in its category. The region includes schools in Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia and western Pennsylvania.

SPJ also recognizes up to two finalists in each category. Cedars' other SPJ also recognizes up to two finalists in each category. Cedars' other four awards were considered finalists:

- » Jillian Philyaw: Sports photography
- » Tianle Li: Feature photography
- » Kari Morris: Feature writing for a story about changing perspectives on alcohol
- » Staff: In-depth reporting package about pursuing grad school

In February, Cedars won the Ohio Newspaper Association contest as the best non-daily student newspaper in the state for the third straight year.



photo by Mary Kate Browning

(L-R) Lauren Eissler, Jeff Gilbert, Anna Dembowski and Jon Gallardo collected Cedars' awards at SPJ's regional conference March 21.



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# Art to Reflect the Creator

Theatre, music programs on campus include students from many majors and encourage them to use their talents

by Emily Finlay

As the week-long arts celebration closes with the annual Pops Concert on March 27, an appreciation and emphasis on the arts continues in several classes, events and groups throughout campus. But with just 32 students studying theatre and 100 music and worship students, campus productions rely on non-majors to round out the performance groups.

## Theatre

The theatre faculty have the opportunity to work with students in their major and students in other majors who have an interest in theatre.

Theatre majors choose from two concentrations – performance and design. No matter which a student chooses, the program gives students training in both areas.

This, said Rebecca Baker, associate professor of theatre, is designed not only to give students skills in both areas but to increase their under-standing and appreciation for those in the different roles in theatre.

“That’s something we train our students to understand, that you may be in on the acting side or in the cast, but we could not do it without all these people who work on our crews,” she said. “It helps to give that spectrum of skills, it makes you more marketable, to respect and be able to speak knowledgeably to people on the other side, on stage or back-stage.”

These skills, combined with a good work ethic, opens doors to a variety of options, Baker said. Whether through missions work or connecting with others involved in theatre, she said, students can break the typically negative stereotype many have of Christians.

“Overall, we want to do good work. Period. That’s what opens the doors in the community for us. But balancing that, constantly, is, how do we do good work and honor God? And do the work for Him as a reflection of his creativity,” she said. “One thing we encourage in (our students) is while we keep the feeling of going for good work, we have to keep the feeling of kindness, camaraderie, respect and family-building among all of us.”

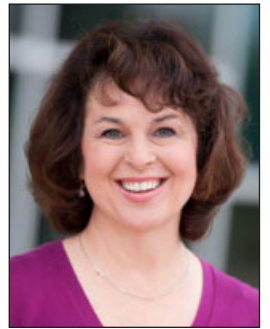
In addition to preparing its theatre students for future careers, Baker said, the department also works to promote theatre to others on campus and in the community. Cedarville draws hundreds of guests every season and has received recognition and several awards for its plays.

But, Baker said, none of this would be possible without the collaboration and help of

**“I think the power of storytelling is huge. When you think about wanting to understand and relate to people, that’s a real value of theatre. I think one of the great things about theatre is it helps us to understand the people around us, not just in the good circumstances of life, but in the hard ones. And it helps us to relate to them.”**

*Rebecca Baker*

associate professor of theatre



many non-theatre majors. Any student may audition for plays, and many roles have gone to non-majors, Baker said.

As a result, she said, the productions tend to have an open atmosphere, and the department lacks the snobbishness that often comes with theatre groups.

“It does a wonderful job of building friendships and keeping the ‘clique’ feel out of theatre, because we have friendships with people in lots of other majors,” she said. “We work with them, we have them in our classes. We have a lot of collaboration. It’s great to be connected on campus.”

This campus-wide involvement reflects the prevalence and integration of the arts on campus, Baker said.

“I hope we can keep integrating into our campus life as a whole, so that it isn’t just special things we go to – just the play, just the concert, just the art exhibit,” she said. “That we are really seeing the value in the work that these can contribute to campus life.”

Theatre especially, she said, has the unique ability to allow its audience and participants to understand and relate to other people and their issues.

“I think the power of storytelling is huge. When you think about wanting to understand and relate to people, that’s a real value of theatre,” she said. “I think one of the great things about theatre is it helps us to understand the people around us, not just in the good circumstances of life, but in the hard ones. And it helps us to relate to them.”

The effects of theatre stay with the audience, Baker said, and let them view human issues from the outside.

“That’s what theatre does,” she said. “We deal with issues of life, we deal with what it’s like to be part of family, when we are at the bottom of the circumstances. It says something for what (theatre) does.”

Art is about humanity, she said, and she hopes that these messages can continue to be spread over campus through theatre and other art.

“Just to continue to be seen as part of campus life as a whole,” she said. “And I think that’s reflective of our culture, because we’re becoming an increasingly image-oriented culture. We have things on all the time. We’re no longer in the stage where we think of a movie as only something we do on the weekend. We know these things, we talk about them, it’s just part of our lives. So, I’d like for our art to be something that’s just a part of campus life.”

## Music

Students in the music and worship department are taught how to use their musical abilities in several ways, including music education, music theory and leading worship.

As with theatre, the department aims to equip its students to use their skills for being witnesses to unbelievers, said Mike DiCuirci, senior professor of music.

“Certainly we would hope they leave with a competency and an excellence in their performance and to understand that their gifts

and talents are a stewardship from God," he said. "That they're to use their gifts and talents to glorify God and really make an impact. And to use their art as a witness. To really have an impact in society for Christ that would draw people to them. I think it's important that they develop musically and spiritually both."

As part of this goal, DiCuirci said, the department participates in several events to serve the university body and the surrounding community.

"Obviously the culture endorses music, and the Bible has a lot to say about music," he said. "So we want to present good, solid music with integrity to the college family and the greater community at large in Dayton and Springfield."

In addition to reaching the community, DiCuirci said, the students in the music and worship department also minister to each other.

"We have a real family environment in our music department," he said. "The students encourage each other, do things together and I think that's a wonderful feature. People really encourage each other and build each other up."

This isn't an exclusive family, though. DiCuirci said many of the students involved in bands and choirs are non-majors who want to use their talents without declaring a music and worship major. For some groups, such as the symphonic band, non-major members make up over half of the group.

"Non-music majors who are competent and have a modicum of talent are more than welcome to audition and participate in our ensembles, be they vocal or instrumental," he said. "In fact, we couldn't exist without them. We don't have enough majors to make all the ensembles go."

For those who are musically talented, DiCuirci said he hopes their involvement with music continues far past school.

"For those who do music well, I hope they continue past university and find a place to use their talents all their life," he said. "You know, you can't play basketball till you're 85, but you can play an instrument till you're 85."

This involvement in arts is important, DiCuirci said, not just for those with musical abilities, but for everyone.

"I would hope that here at the university, through exposure to humanities and good music, that they would become life-long appreciators, even if they can't be (involved). That they would have an appreciation for the arts and their role in the scheme of life," he said. "God gave music to us as a great gift, not only to praise Him but to find therapy and relaxation and entertainment. It's a multi-faceted gift and I would hope that nobody would blow it off or ignore it."

*Emily Finlay is a senior journalism major and campus news editor for Cedars. She loves writing, reading, making obscure references in normal conversation and every type of geekery.*

## 2015-2016 Theatre Season

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**"Cyrano de Bergerac"**  
by Edmond Rostand  
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# Muslim Ministry Org Equips Students

by Kjersti Fry

*Editor's note: Sources are named by first names only because of the sensitivity of potential future ministry.*

Members of the Cedarville org Rusul Salaam are passionate about reaching Muslim people with the gospel of Jesus Christ, and they are beginning by raising awareness and growing support around campus.

Hannah is a junior intercultural studies major pursuing minors in both biology and Middle Eastern studies. She is the president of Rusul Salaam, having begun her term at the start of the school year in 2013.

Hannah, from Pennsylvania, has family members in a Muslim country and hopes to do Muslim ministry, specifically through agriculture using her biology minor.

The name "Rusul Salaam" means "peacemakers," and the members of this org want to be messengers of peace to Muslim people, Hannah said. The org seeks to prepare Cedarville students for this type of ministry. Rusul Salaam has existed as an org for a while, she said, but it recently came back to life in 2013 when Hannah became president.

"Our goal really is to equip students right now to be able to share the gospel with Muslims and people in a Muslim setting," she said.

They also want to develop the students' abilities to build relationships with Muslims to more easily share the gospel, she said. Sharing the gospel in Muslim countries is much more dangerous than sharing the gospel in America, with which most Cedarville students are accustomed, Hannah said. Christian organizations in Muslim countries often have to relocate new Christians to prevent them from being harmed.

"Bringing someone to Christ in a Muslim country isn't just like bringing them to Christ and like discipling them," Hannah said. "It's also making sure that those around them aren't going to be hurting them."

Angela, Rusul Salaam's vice president, is a junior biology major with a Middle Eastern studies minor. She became interested in learning Arabic in high school and has taken Arabic classes for two years at Cedarville. She is also interested in Muslim ministry, though she is not sure how she wants to be involved. She became involved with Rusul Salaam in the fall of 2013 and became vice president January 2015.

Every other week, the members of Rusul



## Rusul Salaam Peacemakers

Salaam gather for an org meeting, and on the off weeks, they gather for 30 minutes to discuss the Bible and the Koran and to pray.

Both last year and this year, Rusul Salaam went on a mission trip to Dearborn, Mich., where there is one of the largest Muslim populations in North America. In Dearborn, the Cedarville students assisted an organization that does full-time ministry with Muslim people and teaches them English, Angela said. They helped with projects and had the opportunity to hear speakers.

She said it was a blessing to work alongside the members of this organization. They hope to make this mission trip an annual event, Angela said, but that is not definite yet.

Both Hannah and Angela said it is important for their members to learn about Muslim culture as a part of their Christian ministry.

Realizing how much of their culture is tied to their beliefs, Hannah said, is very important.

when we meet them," Angela said.

Hannah also pointed out the importance of holding to the truth of the gospel.

"An ability to share God's Word with Muslims in their cultural context without straying from the Word of God," she said, is something that Rusul Salaam can help students with. "Not conforming Christianity to be able to fill their cultural beliefs. Not conforming Christianity to our Western beliefs."

Both Hannah and Angela said they have been blessed by their involvement with Rusul Salaam. Hannah said the biggest blessing for her is the connections she has made and being able to talk to people with the same goals. She also appreciates praying with others for Muslim countries and discussing what is going on in the Middle East.

And Angela said, "I've been blessed by being able to talk to other people with similar interests, because there are a lot of people from different majors that I probably wouldn't have met otherwise."

Rusul Salaam is also working on connecting with other orgs that work with Muslims, especially CU Outreach, Hannah said.

Rusul Salaam is holding an event from 1-4:30 p.m. March 28 in BTS 104 where students can learn more about the basics of Islam and hear from the members of Rusul Salaam about sharing the gospel with Muslims. Students will have the opportunity to join break-out sessions with people who have lived or are living in a Muslim country.

**"Our goal really is to equip students right now to be able to share the gospel with Muslims and people in a Muslim setting."**

*Hannah*

President of Rusul Salaam

People in America tend to separate their culture from their beliefs, but culture and beliefs are deeply intertwined for Muslims, she said.

"We want to learn more about Islam ourselves and then teach the campus more about Islam so we can better minister to Muslims

*Kjersti Fry is a freshman pharmacy major and reporter for Cedars. She is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and she enjoys playing the piano, playing ultimate frisbee and spending time with friends and family.*





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# Review: 'Doubt: A Parable'

by Anna Dembowski

Though "Doubt: A Parable" differs greatly from any recent production at Cedarville, opening night was sold out and the intimate and sensitive storyline conveyed excellently.

Senior Simon Yeh started off the performance playing despairing music on the clarinet, lit only by a single light. All eyes were on him, just a few inches away, really, from the audience.

"Doubt" is performed in thrust format, meaning that the audience sits in raised rows on three sides of the stage so that those in the first row are just inches from the cast at any time. The music's tone, full theatre, dim lighting and proximity of the audience to the action gave the show an intimate feel and yielded a quieter, more focused audience.

The play begins with Father Flynn (David Widder-Varhegyi) – a priest at a 1960s Catholic school – giving a sermon about despair.

"Doubt can be a bond as powerful as certainty," he says. "When you are lost, you are not alone."

And so, the audience is introduced to doubt right off the bat.

The audience is then introduced to a nun who is certain about everything – at least until the final scene – and a nun who lacks confidence. Sister Aloysius (Madison Hart), the principal of the Catholic school, is a rigid and stoic nun who has an answer for everything and essentially answers to no one. Stuck in her old ways of traditional Catholicism, she is skeptical of anyone who thinks or acts differently than her. Sister James (Emma Kowatch), who teaches eighth grade at the school, is young, innocent and timid, though enthusiastic about teaching. Sister James is essentially the foil character of Sister Aloysius in both age and action.

In addition to the contrast between certainty and uncertainty, "Doubt" also displays a contrast between traditional and modern mindsets. Sister Aloysius holds fast to a traditional mindset and is ruffled by students using ballpoint pens – it makes them lazy; Father Flynn's suggestion to add "Frosty the Snowman" into the annual Christmas pageant – it blurs the lines of being set apart; adding sugar to tea – it's too much of an indulgence; Father Flynn preaching sermons in parables – speaking truth directly is the right way; and Father Flynn's long, clean fingernails – short nails would be better.

Father Flynn, who holds a more modern mindset, is ready to drop the legalistic ideals of Catholicism and befriend the community.

However, by the first mention of Father Flynn's name in the show, Sister Aloysius is already questioning his actions and has instructed Sister James to come to her when she, too, begins questioning Father Flynn's actions.

And Sister James does come. She comes with news that Father Flynn has "taken an interest" in Donald Mueller, the school's first and only African-American student, since Donald Mueller joined the altar boys. But unlike Sister Aloysius who immediately begins a campaign against Father Flynn for his inappropriate behavior, Sister James is uncomfortable about rushing to conclusions.

"It's so unsettling to look at people with such suspicion," Sister James says.

And since Sister Aloysius doesn't think well of the Monseigneur – Father Flynn's boss – she decides to take things into her own hands.

"We're going to have to stop (Father Flynn) ourselves," she says.

And so goes the rest of the play. Sister Aloysius resorts to deceit, cunning language and harsh words to get Father Flynn to confess his wrongdoing.

"I feel as if my reputation has been damaged through no fault of my own," Father Flynn says.

Sister Aloysius goes so far as to bring Donald Mueller's mother, played by Raven Simmons, to her office for no purpose other than to continue her campaign against Father Flynn.

"You're bringing my son into your righteous tiff with the priest," Mrs. Mueller says.

And a righteous tiff it is.

"You had a fundamental mistrust of me before this incident," Father Flynn says to Sister Aloysius. "Whatever I have done I have left in the hands of my confessor as have you. We are the same."

Yet nothing Father Flynn says – short of a confession – will push Sister Aloysius off her track to remove Father Flynn from the school.

As Sister Aloysius campaigns against Father Flynn, she has many heated arguments – deafening and heart-breaking – with the other three characters. The most passionate is with Father Flynn himself who neglects his priestly character for that one scene.

Hart presented her hardened character well – almost to the point of being equally despised by Father Flynn, the school's children and audience members. Not once did Hart smile, though her character had fun with a bit of stoic sarcasm, which returned laughs from the audience and broke up the mentally draining storyline.



photo by Kari Barnhill

Father Flynn, played by David Widder-Varhegyi, is accused of inappropriate conduct within the Catholic school by Sister Aloysius, played by Madison Hart.

Widder-Varhegyi meshed his usual comical antics and expressions with the subject matter of "Doubt," again adding a bit of comic relief – though not flippantly – to a serious play. Simmons and Kowatch also embodied their characters well. Though just a 95-minute play without intermission, the time the cast has spent learning and becoming their characters is evident.

The four-person cast truly makes the audience think about what truth and doubt entail and the consequences of spreading rumors. Each word spoken seems to have mile-deep meanings. Fitting for the play's title, there's not much certainty in the play. What one thinks is true another may think just a coincidence or completely wrong.

And with the nature of the show, many biblical themes are explored – confession, forgiveness, belief, faith, truth, obedience and sin.

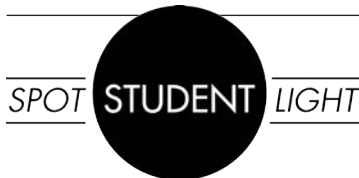
Sister Aloysius attempts to justify her spiteful campaign against Father Flynn to Sister James who never really becomes confident in her belief.

"In the pursuit of wrongdoing, one steps away from God," Sister Aloysius says.

"Doubt" is very much an introspective show. You may have no words for what you encounter, but you'll not forget the play soon.

**Remaining performances are 8 p.m. March 27, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. March 28, and 3 p.m. March 29 in Cedarville's DeVries Theatre.**

*Anna Dembowski is a junior journalism major and managing editor/arts & entertainment editor for Cedars. She likes nearly anything that is the color purple and enjoys spelling the word "agathokakological."*



# Victoria Stapleton: Photographer

by Dominique Jackson

**W**edding photography and nursing aren't closely related, but senior nursing major Victoria Stapleton seems to have brought them into coexistence.

"It's never easy, and it's actually really stressful most times. Things get hectic very often, but I love it," Stapleton said. "I see a lot of qualities that apply to both (photography and nursing). In either, it's important to be able to make people feel comfortable quickly because, in photography, if they feel comfortable, it's easier to get the best picture of who they really are. They're smiling, they're not tense, everything is pretty much natural. And with patients, their first impression of you is vital. It's crucial to show them they're important to you, to ask questions to get to know them and also to let them know you."

## Photography

Stapleton said she would not be where she is without her mentor, Tracy Mallott, who taught her everything she knows about photography.

"In 2008, Tracy kind of took me under her wing and showed me the ins and outs of wedding photography," Stapleton said. "She taught me a lot about how to truly care for clients and help relieve their stress. A wedding is a pretty big event, so a lot of clients are nervous and uneasy. It's just a huge blessing to make them feel comfortable."

Stapleton said she began doing photography at a fairly early age.

"My mother got me my first camera when I was five – it was a Canon 20D – and I mostly would just use it to take pictures of my mom or my siblings or my pets," Stapleton said. "When I was 12, I went to a wedding in Chicago and shadowed the photographer there. When I was 13, I shot my first solo wedding. I ended up shooting three more by myself at 15, and I've been running my own wedding photography business since 2009."

Stapleton's business, La Vita Photo, is stationed in Dayton, and she's photographed everything from engagement sessions to wedding sessions to snapping photos of newborns and toddlers – essentially any stage in the growth of a family.

"I've really had to learn how to accommodate people and do whatever makes them feel most comfortable," Stapleton said. "That's been a huge lesson for me."

Stapleton also serves others through her photography.

"I also work with Now I Lay Me Down (to Sleep), an organization that takes photos of stillborn babies or infants born with life-threatening disorders, and retouches them

and gives them to the parents so they have something to remember their children by forever," she said.

Stapleton also said she takes pictures for Dayton Right to Life, an organization dedicated to defending the rights of both the unborn and the elderly, as well as the sick and disabled.

"My aim in life is to touch hearts and show people the love of God, no matter where I am or what I'm doing," Stapleton said.

Stapleton's friend, Mikayla Bush, said Stapleton is very people-focused in her photography.

"One of the most prominent things about Victoria is her passion for people," Bush said. "She loves people right where they are, it doesn't matter whether you're black or white, gay or straight, what your beliefs are, she loves people. And I think that comes out in her work. She just wants to capture those moments for people, whether it's a wedding or getting pictures of a family or what have you. It's about giving those people a memory that they can hold onto."

## A balancing act

Bush is the cousin of Stapleton's fiancé, and Stapleton was also her discipleship group leader. Bush said Stapleton faces difficulties in balancing her loves for nursing and photography.

"I know it stresses her out at times," Bush said. "And I've been there when she's got deadlines and she has people emailing her, and she needs them to understand that she's a college student and she'll get things back to them as soon as possible. I think she does work hard at getting things back in a timely manner, but she also goes in with the understanding when she gets new clients that they have an agreement."

Stapleton's academic advisor, Amy Voris, said Stapleton's combined efforts in photography and nursing are fascinating. Voris commended Stapleton's photography.

"She's very good in it," Voris said. "She's busy to the point that I have been concerned for her at times, burning the candle at both ends, but she has managed well."

Voris said when she first met Stapleton and found out she was heavy into photography and intended to pursue nursing, she was confused and wondered how her advisee would maintain both interests.

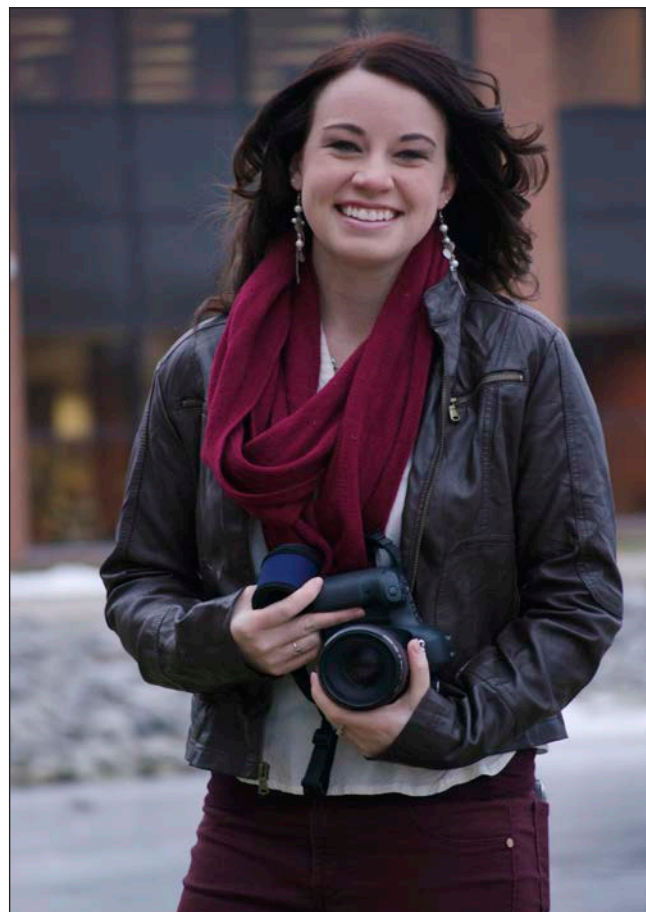


photo by Malia Rickards

Senior Victoria Stapleton began taking pictures at age five and now has her own photography business, La Vita Photo.

But Voris said she quickly found that photography is her advisee's passion and working with people through nursing and using that as a ministry is Stapleton's primary focus.

"If she could, I know she would take pictures all day, but I also know she would very much feel the lack of connection she now has working with her patients," Voris said. "If there's one thing I think everyone should know about Tori, it's that God is always first in her life, and her compassion for people is always second. Anyone who's known her for more than five minutes knows that. She definitely has a servant's heart."

Contact La Vita Photo at 937-479-1390 or at [www.lavitaphoto.com](http://www.lavitaphoto.com)

*Dominique Jackson is a junior broadcasting major with a concentration in audio and an arts and entertainment writer for Cedars. When he's not recording, he enjoys writing poetry, singing loudly and ignoring most societal norms.*



# 'The Village' Expands, Rebrands

by Anna Dembowski

**T**he style blog a few Cedarville students formed in late 2013 has expanded into a national – and international – virtual entity called “The Village.” What began as a style blog highlighting students around campus is now stretching across the United States and across the pond to England, resembling more of a website than a blog.

Bethany Gustin, a Cedarville senior, said “The Village” has grown to a staff of about 50 people since Cedars’ February 2014 story introducing the blog.

“I think our big group has made the website what it is, because each person adds a new aspect to the site,” Gustin said. “We have editors for each section, we have proofreaders, we have graphic designers and (a) creative team. It’s definitely expanded.”

Gustin, who handles many of the fashion- and styling-related elements, said the site has grown to include many different parts of life.

“It was very heavily focused on fashion, where now that’s one of our many aspects,” she said. “We also have culture, adventure, fashion, lifestyle.”

The staff has become more diverse as well.

“Through networking with different people and wanting to expand our look and have it more diverse, it’s been a great way that we’ve been able to do that is to find people from different locations and leading different lifestyles,” Gustin said. “We ended up finding it beneficial to the website to have people from different areas geographically.”

Editor-in-chief of “The Village” and December ’13 grad Beth (Julca) Harper added to this geographical diversity when she got married shortly after graduation and moved to England where she now resides.

“(The Village) probably wouldn’t have been as international if I hadn’t moved to Eng-



photo by Lauren Eissler

Audrey Jung, women’s editor for “The Village,” said people outside Cedarville began getting involved with the site through Instagram, where its hashtag (#villagesociety) has about 30,000 posts.

land,” Harper said.

## The beginning

Harper and Cedarville senior Jennifer Langton established “The Village” in November 2013.

At its beginning, “The Village” included The Daily Look, Style Spotlights, Village Picks, an inspiration section, and men’s and women’s sections. Since the staff was small and the blog new, “The Village” consulted social media for getting guest writers for its regular posts. The staff was primarily composed of Ohio residents, though the staff did hope to make “The

Village” something applicable to its audience beyond the ‘Ville.

## A change in focus

Since its beginning, Harper has cast the vision for “The Village.”

“We’re trying to move a little more towards lifestyle, but we don’t want to lose the fashion aspect. We want to still incorporate that into more of our lifestyle content,” Harper said. “We thought it would be cool to incorporate both, so literally it is lifestyle, like life and style.”

Langton said “The Village” has broadened its focus while still keeping style in mind.

“It’s very much now more like a holistic lifestyle thing rather than just fashion,” said Langton, who works closely with Harper to continue making Harper’s vision for “The Village” a reality. “It’s like how a stylish person would like live their whole life as opposed to like what they might wear. It’s like where they might go, what they do there. It’s taken the idea of style to more of a life-broad topic than just clothes.”

The staff has moved from doing The Daily Look and Style Spotlights to featuring the entirety of a person.

“Before it was kind of just like bits and pieces of a person,” Gustin said. “(Now) when we feature someone it’s like looking at all aspects of their life.”

Langton said the focus has moved from moments to movements.

**“It’s very much now more like a holistic lifestyle thing rather than just fashion. It’s like how a stylish person would like live their whole life as opposed to like what they might wear. It’s like where they might go, what they do there. It’s taken the idea of style to more of a life-broad topic than just clothes.**

*Jennifer Langton*

co-founder of “The Village”

"I think before it was more focused on highlighting individual people where as now it's more highlighting movements," Langton said. "It's more like, 'What can you contribute to the movement as a whole more than just like what does your individual outfit say about you on this day?'"

### Making it social

And with a broadened focus on style, Cedarville junior and "Village" women's editor Audrey Jung said "The Village" has developed its own Instagram hashtag, #villagesociety. The hashtag has collected about 30,000 posts on Instagram – the social media outlet most used by "The Village."

"That's sort of how we went from being just something that Cedarville students know about and Cedarville students started to getting people who live in Washington and California and other people involved in 'The Village,'" Jung said.

Langton said that people post content using "The Village" hashtag, and that makes them a piece of "The Village."

"It just has made our community bigger," Langton said. "Even though those people aren't obviously staff members, they are still contributing in a way."

The large exposure "The Village" has been given on Instagram makes it possible to reach people anywhere, Harper said.

"At the moment, obviously it's very American-based, but for the most part, most of our fans are in the U.S.," Harper said. "But thanks to Instagram, we can like reach out to anyone. My hope is that it can be something worldwide, but at the moment I think we really do focus on American stuff – like statewide."

And by using social media as intensely as "The Village" does, Langton said writers are now contacting the staff more than the staff pursues writers.

"Now, it is definitely more people want to be a part of it, they want to have a piece in it so they pursue us," Langton said. "I think it's what we hoped to see, like people wanting to be a part of it as opposed to us wanting them to be a part of it."

### Getting a new brand

Harper said "The Village" replaced its inspiration section with an adventure section, added a culture section and added many staff members after last summer. She said since the site has been expanding and the quantity of content had become overwhelming to post regularly, the past few months have been spent improving the quality of "The Village" and prepping for a rebranding that's coming later this spring and summer.

"We're kind of cutting down on the team members, and we're hoping to cut down on the content a little bit and focus more on producing quality content instead of trying to focus on numbers," Harper said.

Once the rebranding is announced, "The

Village" will have a new name – and one that's more well-defined. Harper said its current name can be confusing, because the site is referred to as "The Village," "The Village Style," and "The Village Society," in sync with its Instagram hashtag.

"Because we have changed from, you know, who we were when we started out in Cedarville," Harper said, "I just feel like we kind of need this new brand – kind of just like turning a leaf, refreshing and restarting."

**"I just hope that they gain perspective from someone else, just to know that there's a broader community out there of people with the same interests. And if they are young and at a new job and in a new place, then it can be a point of familiarity and comfort for them, and also (an opportunity) to learn new things about new places and different kinds of people."**

*Audrey Jung*

"The Village" women's editor

Harper said with the new name – kept secret from Cedars – comes monthly themes for the content to follow and the addition of an online store.

"There's kind of a lot of little changes that are happening," Harper said. "Again, like our name's going to be a big change for everyone, but we're still moving forward."

### Looking ahead

Gustin is heading up the e-commerce idea, which she said will be a collection of

clothing and other style pieces posted for sale through partnering with small businesses. She said products that represent who "The Village" is as a website will be available – clothing, accessories, and health and beauty products.

Harper said the shop will open later this year, as it is still in the early stages.

"Ideally, eventually I want to turn this into a business," Harper said. "I want to be able to employ people and like have a paid staff that can just focus on working for 'The Village.' At the moment it's just been cool to have a team that volunteers, because I know they're passionate about what they're doing."

Gustin said part of the vision for "The Village" has always been to develop something that produces a little income for the staff.

"Something that I think has always been a vision is once our website grows with more following, we wanted to find a way to have some sort of income from it, because at this point in time, it's something that we do because we're passionate about it or for fun, not because we're getting paid to do it," Gustin said. "But, we're just in the works – especially with the shop and some different work with different companies and ads – that we've been starting to get money for that, and so I can see in a year from now that that would increase in income."

Harper said the staff will use its growing audience and revenue from the shop to support a print copy of the now virtual-only entity.

"Print is definitely somewhere in our future. I think that's like my main goal," Harper said. "I love print, but I think we want to build a fan base first before we go into print because it can be very expensive, and we want to make sure we have the resources to do that, which is a reason we want to open the shop."

### Keeping it simple

Jung said "The Village" doesn't try to be fancy.

"We just try to tell unique stories and, like our site says, 'showcase the everyday person,'" Jung said.

Jung said 25-34 year olds, according to a loose interpretation of Google Analytics, are the main audience of "The Village." She said it's people who are just starting their adulthood – post-college, traveling around, learning a new job.

"I just hope that they gain perspective from someone else, just to know that there's a broader community out there of people with the same interests," Jung said. "And if they are young and at a new job and in a new place, then it can be a point of familiarity and comfort for them, and also (an opportunity) to learn new things about new places and different kinds of people."

*Anna Dembowski is a junior journalism major and managing editor/arts & entertainment editor for Cedars. She likes nearly anything that is the color purple and enjoys spelling the word "agathokakological."*





## Missions Organizations Provide Creative Opportunities for Students




### Art in Chiang Mai, Thailand

In a country that is 95 percent Buddhist, students will find a great opportunity to evangelize through their art. TEAM's Chiang Mai Art and Music Center Initiative invites students to come and connect with nonbelievers by doing whatever art they're passionate about. Look for possible internships at [thailand.team.org](http://thailand.team.org) or email Kelsey Wales at [kelsey.wales@team.org](mailto:kelsey.wales@team.org) for more information.



### Photo and Video Storytelling

Storytellers Abroad offers students an opportunity to spend two weeks training alongside photo and video professionals. Accepted applicants will learn how to create multimedia stories of God's hand at work through real-world experience. Learn more at [storytellersabroad.com](http://storytellersabroad.com)



### Minister by Ship

Operation Mobilization (OM) Ships International's Global Action program sends Christians all over the world on the Logos Hope. Students can apply for opportunities to minister with their creative talents on-board and at ports. Accepted applicants will work with Christians from all over the world for two to three months at a time, or longer if desired. Apply at [www.omships.org](http://www.omships.org)



### School in Italy

OM Arts' Incarnate program offers students an opportunity to develop their art and discipleship abilities alongside mentors in Italy. This opportunity is available every two years and helps students learn how to use art to naturally share the gospel with others. Find out more at [arts.om.org/school](http://arts.om.org/school)

Sources: [thailand.team.org](http://thailand.team.org), [storytellersabroad.com](http://storytellersabroad.com), [omships.org](http://omships.org) and [arts.om.org/school](http://arts.om.org/school)

by Laura Ullom

Although the primary view has been that only medical students and teachers are useful overseas, missionaries said that's beginning to change. Creativity is becoming a new tool for evangelism – and missionaries said that is extremely effective.

Two missionaries working with Africa Inland Mission (AIM) – who cannot be named because of the nature of their ministry – said that creative art opens doors for evangelism. Students have opportunities to build relationships with people through things such as theatre, dance and even film, they said.

“When you connect through the art it just gives you a natural way to share,” one of the missionaries said.

The other missionary, who has a master's degree in theatre, said some countries only have creative access, meaning Christians are not allowed to enter the country as part of an identified evangelical group. Many countries don't want proselytizers, he said.

“For missions, (art) can be a frontline thing,” the missionary said. “(Artists) are going to be the people who can actually go to the front lines and be where the lost people are.”

Kelsey Wales, a missions coach with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), said people often hear only about education- or medical-related missions because those missions' goals – meeting physical needs – are straightforward.

Missionaries know how to provide people with the urgent care and resources they need, but creative missions are more open-ended, she said. For example, students may teach art, perform or just create alongside others to share the gospel.

The ultimate goal of missions is to love other people, Wales said. She said students can do that in an abundance of ways.

Those who have a heart for music can easily build relationships with others who enjoy music, and those who love painting can connect with other artists. Wales said that any passion can be used to share faith in Christ.

The AIM missionaries said internships are the way to start. The missionaries said Operation Mobilization Arts offers short- and long-term creative arts internships overseas. Students can find more information by going to <http://www.omusa.org/go>

Cedarville is in the process of bringing one of TEAM's outreaches to students, hopefully by 2016, said Ellen Hanson, an administrative assistant for Global Outreach. Wales said students who participate would go to Thailand for a few weeks and connect with the Thai culture. TEAM's ministry began with a few Christians reaching out to Buddhist monks who enjoy painting and playing classical guitar, she said.

A student only needs three things to be ready to go on a missions trip, Wales said: a humble heart, a teachable spirit and the capacity to work well with others. She said students who don't feel called to go overseas can still help by spreading the word about missions opportunities to their friends.

“We need to do our art all over the world for the sake of Jesus,” said the AIM missionary. “We will not be afraid. We will take this message to the ends of the earth.”

*Laura Ullom is a freshman English and Spanish major and arts and entertainment writer for Cedars. She enjoys creating and solving riddles and playing the occasional game of chess.*

## Review: ‘The Battle of the Five Armies’



by Lauren Eissler

Peter Jackson's genius shines through clearly in “The Battle of the Five Armies,” as with the others, in the writing and directing. He captures both the beauty and intensity of the story through the sweeping landscape shots, battle scenes and personal moments between characters.

The movie tracks with the book for most of the storyline, but it does also finish out the “extraneous” additions from the previous films. The majority of these scenes (though without some of Jackson's creative license) actually occurred in Tolkien's other writings.

Jackson wove multiple storylines together skillfully in this film:

- The dwarves vs. themselves (and everyone else)
- Bard (Luke Evans) vs. the Master of Lake-town (Stephen Fry)
- The Tauriel (Evangeline Lilly)/Kili (Aidan Turner)/Legolas (Orlando Bloom) love-triangle-thing

• The meetings of Gandalf (Ian McKellen), Galadriel (Cate Blanchett), Elrond (Hugo Weaving) and Saruman (Christopher Lee) to discuss the “bigger picture” of Middle-Earth

And that bigger picture is the hidden storyline revealed in the “Silmarillion” and in parts through “The Lord of the Rings” – the Dark Lord Sauron regaining his power and returning to his stronghold in Mordor.

The dwarves are a dramatic bunch, particularly Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage). Thorin's been moody and sullen for two out of three movies, and his personality doesn't improve in the last. He becomes King under the Mountain and is completely consumed by his desires and greed, forgetting all who are his friends and losing all reason. He would rather go to war with all the other races of Middle-Earth than share some of the wealth of the Mountain.

And he knows that he's changing. Bilbo (Martin Freeman) and the rest of the Company will tell him, but does Thorin listen?

Even when Bilbo goes to great lengths to show Thorin his greed, Thorin doesn't realize his mistakes. He just continues down his path of greed and obsession.

His thoughts are so consumed by the treasures of the Mountain that he refuses to let the Company assist in the great battle that takes place right outside their door. They remain shut up inside the Mountain, guarding the treasure until the last possible moment.

Through all of this, Bilbo remains the steadfast, trustworthy hobbit that he is. He lets the world affect him and shape his understanding but not change his principles.

Martin Freeman's performance was excellent, as usual. The depth he brings to Bilbo is astounding – he conveys Bilbo's emotions perfectly through the slightest change of expression. It's amazing to watch the emotions flicker across his face and recognize from those Bilbo's thoughts at that moment.

The “Battle of the Five Armies” brought the story full circle to tie into the beginning of the “Fellowship of the Ring.” While it is exciting to see the last installment of this trilogy, it's always sad to see the end of an era.

“The Battle of the Five Armies” was released on DVD March 24.

*Lauren Eissler is a senior journalism major and managing editor for Cedars. She essentially lives in the J-Lab, with her caffeine intake roughly corresponding to how many articles she's writing, and tweets as @L\_Eissler.*



# Grad Mixes Faith, Music on 'The Voice'



photo: Tyler Golden/NBC

2012 Cedarville alumnus and vocal contestant Brian Johnson sings during the Knockout Round March 23 on NBC's "The Voice." Johnson studied communication at Cedarville and sang at a variety of venues while a student. Johnson moves onto the live rounds with Adam Levine as his coach.

by Anna Dembowski

Cedarville University grad Brian Johnson ('12) has made it to the Live Playoffs on NBC's eighth season of "The Voice," but there's more to him than his music.

"Brian almost always had a heart about as big as Cedarville," said James Phipps, Johnson's academic advisor and a senior professor of communications at Cedarville. "He just is a people-type person, and he had a heart for people."

But though his heart's big, Johnson's head never swelled as his musical abilities grew, Phipps said.

"The nice thing about Brian is that his head never got too big," Phipps said. "He was not puffed up about his abilities, and yet I think everybody around him knew he had talents."

## At the 'Ville

When Johnson came to Cedarville, he chose to study worship ministry under Roger O'Neel because the musical organizations he got involved with at Cedarville helped him realize he wanted to do music for a living.

"I kind of made a decision that music was

something I wanted to do, and worship was one of the ways I wanted to do that," Johnson said.

He said his performances at Cedarville marked the first time his singing was met by good reactions from audience members, as he had been bullied throughout middle and high school.

"Cedarville was really the place where I got to, you know, step into music," he said. "In high school and middle school I really shied away from a lot of music because I got bullied as a kid and didn't have a ton of opportunities to really experiment with music just because I was so self-conscious. So as soon as I got to Cedarville, it was like the switch flipped, and I just did everything possible freshman year. Anyone that would let me on stage, I would just try to do as much as possible."

And so, Johnson sang at local churches, in chapel, with the jazz band, at interruptions in The Hive, and as a member of the Jubilate and OneVoice choirs.

But Johnson said once his dad was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, he changed his major to communication because he wanted something that made more sense in the busi-

ness world so he could have the resources to care for his dad.

Despite the switch in major, Johnson continued to be heavily involved at the university, both in music and employment.

He worked regularly for Cedarville's Phonathon, took shifts in The Hive, was a personal assistant to an admissions counselor and volunteered several hours a week as a university tour guide under Sarah Allen, the associate director of guest services at Cedarville.

"He just wanted to give back," Allen said. "Just the fact that he was willing to spend five or 10 hours a week volunteering for the university (as a tour guide) and just to help people make their college decision, I think that says a lot about the character of him."

## Mixing faith and music

Johnson said his time at Cedarville taught him to be committed to his faith.

"I think Cedarville has really prepared me to sort of walk into the world – in a secular world – and really just understand what it means to hold firm to what you believe," Johnson said.

And he's put that lesson into practice dur-

ing his time on “The Voice.”

“My faith and my walk with Christ is one of the biggest things that I’ve talked about on the show – I haven’t necessarily gotten the chance to talk about it just yet – but behind the scenes, in front of a lot of the other artists, coaches, and producers and everything, they all know that, you know, what I stand for and what I believe in,” Johnson said. “I haven’t necessarily gotten the chance to speak on the national platform yet, but I think that when people get a chance to see me and when people hear my story, it’s really difficult to not think of God when they hear my story and just see all the things that I’ve been able to overcome through my experiences with Christ.”

Johnson said there are a lot of Christians on the show, and because transportation has been limited during their hotel stays, “Voice” contestants had church in the hotel.

“We were in a hotel for weeks at a time, and we weren’t really allowed to go to many places,” Johnson said. “We would just meet in a hotel room, and there’d be like 20 of us in a hotel room leading worship on Sundays and having church.”

Johnson, who leads worship weekly at Journey Community Church in addition to his job at Bravo Wellness in Cleveland, said his love for singing comes from God.

“God’s given me this passion and this desire to sing, and leading worship is such a good way to express that passion, especially with the unique opportunity to be able to stand on stage and lead people in worship,” Johnson said. “And people recognize it’s more about what I’m singing about rather than my voice. Leading worship is such a unique opportunity, because God’s given me the talent – this passion – and I get to share that with my church, in chapel, or on a national platform.”

## Making music

This season was the fourth time Johnson has auditioned for “The Voice.” He said he has gone to the open auditions and gotten a few callbacks, but this is the first time he has appeared on the broadcast performances.

“I kept going back to ‘The Voice’ because I believe in the format so much,” Johnson said. “For me, as someone that’s a bigger guy and someone that struggles with their image, ‘The Voice’ had such a cool intro to the show. It’s a show about a blind audition where the coaches aren’t necessarily looking at how you are on stage yet, they’re not looking about your image, they’re not looking at how you look on stage, they’re solely listening to your voice. And that was such a cool concept for me, because I didn’t have to worry about how I looked, and I didn’t have to worry about people saying ‘no’ to me just based off of my looks. It was solely based on how I sung. And it took a few times to get there, but I feel like I’m more of an artist now.”

Johnson said his ultimate goal is to release music and make a living off of it.

“It’s always been my dream to do music on the stage and have people enjoy the music I’m making as much as I enjoy it,” Johnson said. “I would love for the world to see what I’ve been passionate about for so long, and it’s just exciting to be able to do that right now. ‘The Voice’ gives you such a cool opportunity to be able to release music on a weekly basis.”

His singles from the competition’s first two rounds are available for purchase on iTunes and have claimed spots high up on various music charts.

“To see people actually respond to stuff that I do, it’s just so awesome,” Johnson said.

## ‘The Voice’

Phipps said he’s proud of Johnson’s success thus far.

“I’m just real proud of Brian for overcoming a lot of difficulties along the way and doing well and being a really good representative of his faith,” Phipps said. “In some ways (on ‘The

I’m not worried about that at all.”

Phipps, a “Voice” viewer for all eight seasons, said the competition this year may be the toughest ever, but he’s hopeful that Johnson will make it to the end.

“I don’t recall a season where all of the teams were as strong as they are right now,” Phipps said. “So he’s in the battle with probably the strongest teams ever, and that’s tough because it means good people don’t make it to the end.”

Johnson said his experience on “The Voice” has taught him that he wants his first priority to be continuing his music, as he’s pushed it aside for various reasons – such as paying college debts, making rent payments and caring for his dad – the last few years.

“‘The Voice’ so far has really opened my eyes as to the fact that this is what I want for a living, and music has to be the thing that is my main priority,” he said. “If this is my dream, I only have one life to live exactly the way that



photo: Trae Patton/NBC

Joshua Davis (L) and Brian Johnson (R) get advice from guest artist Meghan Trainor in a practice for the Battle Rounds on NBC’s “The Voice,” which aired Mar. 9. Davis and Johnson were roommates during recordings for the show and paired together for the “Voice” Battles, where coach Blake Shelton retained Johnson. Johnson was later stolen by Levine after the Knockout Round Mar. 23.

Voice’) he’s fulfilling, I guess, what we always knew he could do but he’s doing it in an excellent manner.”

And despite Johnson’s success at present on “The Voice” – joining Blake Shelton’s team and winning the battle round against Team Blake-mate Joshua Davis, Johnson’s roommate during the competition – Allen said Johnson has remained humble.

“Just when you see somebody who has worked hard and is faithful and loved people and stayed humble, to get that kind of a platform,” Allen said. “I just think it speaks that he wants to make much of God, and God’s given him that opportunity. I’m just proud of him, and I don’t think it will change him at all, like,

God prepared it for me, and I’ve got to be able to take those chances and believe that God is opening those doors for a reason. Life is too short to not take those chances.”

**Follow Johnson on social media**  
@BWJohnsonMusic, or keep up-to-date with his performances as Cedars (@CedarsatCU) live-tweets them

*Anna Dembowski is a junior journalism major and managing editor/arts & entertainment editor for Cedars. She likes nearly anything that is the color purple and enjoys spelling the word “agathokakological.”*



# Making the Doughnut Rounds

Local doughnut shops have offered the treat for 50-plus years



photos by Anna Dembowski

Fresh doughnuts fill the top rack of the display case at Stan the Donut Man on North Detroit Street in Xenia. From doughnut holes to cinnamon rolls, there's a few dozen to choose from.

by *Laura Jani*

**S**tan the Donut Man and Bill's Donut Shop, both located within a short drive of Cedarville, provide delicious doughnuts to customers while bringing a family atmosphere to the forefront.

## Stan the Donut Man

Stan the Donut Man was started about 50 years ago by a man named Stan. The current owner, Janet Foster, bought the shop about 15 years ago.

Currently, it is managed by Jodi Fryman and Shannon Winters, Foster's two daughters.

The shop has been recognized as "the best in Greene County" according to Fryman.

"We are always ranked somewhere in the top five of the area around here," Fryman said.

There are three storefront locations for the shop, one in Dayton, one in Xenia and one in West Chester. The shop is known for their tiger tails and their Reese's delights.

Stan the Donut man delivers doughnuts to 38 local businesses as well, including the Corner Bakery in Cedarville. Fryman said that wholesale is a part of the income, but over-the-counter business is booming as well.

The best-selling doughnuts include the cream filled varieties, the Persian doughnuts and the tiger tails, which are chocolate and

vanilla glazed twists.

When asked what she envisions for the future of her business, Fryman simply said "growth."

Fryman said the most rewarding part of running the business is it's family oriented.

"We are all family," Fryman said. "We are

local and family run, and it is nice that we can keep everything going and maintained as a small family business."

Fryman said she estimates that the business sells "thousands of dozens" of doughnuts a day. The shop bakes doughnuts all day and all night.

The shops are open until midnight Thursday through Saturday and until 10 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday.

When describing the business in only a few words, Fryman said, "excellent doughnuts and very family oriented."

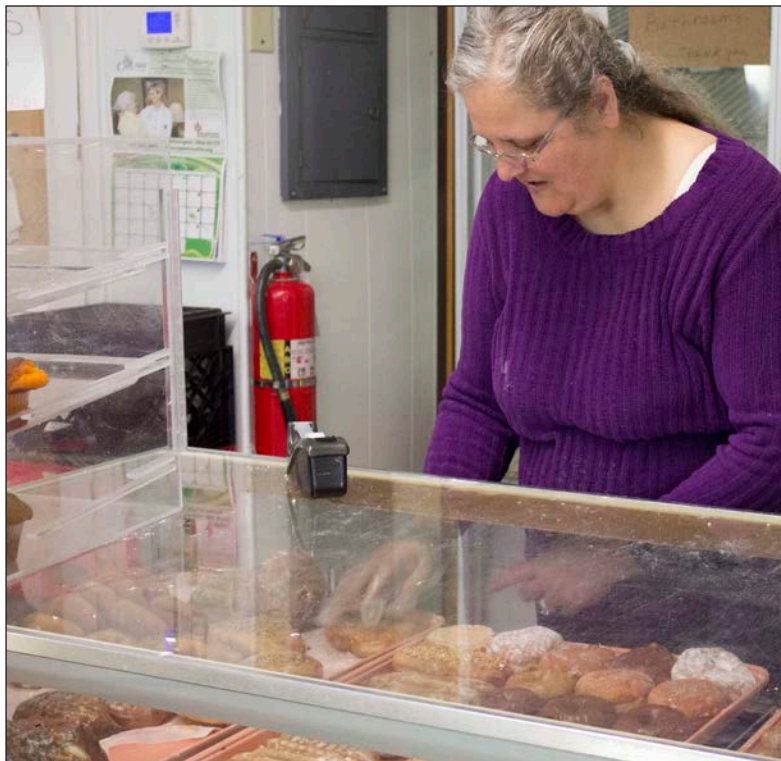
## Bill's Donut Shop

One of the local competitors of Stan the Donut Man's is Bill's Donut Shop in Centerville.

Bill's began in 1960 on East 3rd Street in Dayton. The current owners' parents, Bill and Faye Elam, started making doughnuts because they wanted to go into business themselves.

In 1979, the shop moved to its current location in Centerville. In 1995, the owners retired and sold the business to two of their children, Lisa and Jim Elam, who both worked at the shop throughout high school.

Savor Magazine has ranked Bill's among the top 50 doughnut shops in the United States, and a USA Today April 2013 article placed Bill's in the top 10 greatest doughnut shops across the country.



Athena Roades rearranges the display case after customers choose their doughnuts at Stan the Donut Man in Xenia. Roades works weekdays at the shop, meaning that she arrives at 4:40 a.m. to get the day's pastries ready and stays until noon. She's worked at the Xenia location for 30 years.



Stan the Donut Man has locations in Xenia, Dayton and West Chester.

Lisa Elam said the success of the business is because Bill's has been family owned all this time.

"We haven't changed the way we do things since we have started back in the '60s," she said. "We added some things, but we have kept the recipes and the tradition all this time."

The most popular doughnuts vary with the seasons, with pumpkin being popular in the fall. Generally, the sour cream and the basic glazed doughnuts are the most popular.

Olivia Ochs, a Cedarville senior, said Bill's Donuts is a unique experience with charm and character.

"Bill's doughnuts are the best when you are at Bill's (Donut Shop)," Ochs said. "The whole environment, the atmosphere, it is all about the experience."

The number of doughnuts that the shop makes throughout the week varies based on the day. Elam said business is usually slower near the beginning of the week but gets busier through the week.

Thursday through Sunday, Bill's has bakers that come in and bake for back-to-back eight-hour shifts. As doughnut supplies go down, the bakers replace them with fresh ones constantly.

Bill's has many regular customers.

"There is always someone here that they can talk with," Elam said. "They know my em-

ployees pretty well, and they talk back and forth."

Senior Cedarville student Casey Gollihue said Bill's creates a fun atmosphere for their

**"To me, to be able to do these kinds of things, and to be able to give back to other people, that's the best part."**

*Lisa Elam*

Bill's Donut Shop co-owner

customers.

"The workers are always fun to talk to, and they are always really good with the customers," Gollihue said. "They always ask about your day, and they make jokes. They are just fun to be around."

Elam said she has a good group of girls and guys that work for the shop.

"I've got quite a few employees that have been here for a long time," Elam said.

One employee has been at Bill's for 30 years, and another has been at Bill's for 12 years.

Elam describes Bill's as a community-minded and people-oriented place.

"I know a lot of people who have work, and it's a job, where this is more, this is it," Elam said. "This is what we like to do, so it's really not even a job."

Bill's often fills standing orders for places such as Cedarville University, the University of Dayton and many area public schools. Elam said there have been baby showers, wedding receptions, pig roasts and funeral meals at the shop. There will also be a 5K beginning and ending at the shop next month.

"To me, to be able to do these kinds of things, and to be able to give back to other people, that's the best part," Elam said. "If we didn't have the shop and the customers we have, we wouldn't be able to pay it forward, so to speak."

*Laura Jani is a senior nursing major and the off-campus news editor for Cedars. She enjoys a freshly brewed cup of coffee, learning the Spanish language and traveling to new destinations.*



# New Zealand, New Zeal

Cedarville athletes travel across the globe to share the gospel through basketball

by Jon Gallardo

**W**hen Cedarville basketball player Lane Vander Hulst found himself on the other side of the world talking to a big crowd, he said he was a bit nervous.

"It was the first time I really had to get up in front of everyone and share the gospel," he said. "It's really easy to do in your head, but once you're looking at all those people looking at you, it's kind of difficult."

In the summer of 2013, Vander Hulst and teammate Marcus Reineke, in partnership with Athletes in Action, went on a basketball tour to New Zealand. And although they went to New Zealand to change other people's lives, they walked away from the trip transformed.

The tour was made up of Division I and II basketball players from Christian and secular universities. They spent a week in Irvine, Calif., participating in basketball practices and getting to know each other. After this, they flew to New Zealand, where they played against different college teams and New Zealand's under-18 national team. Many of the games were played in Auckland at the practice facilities of the country's top professional team, the New Zealand Breakers.

The trip took the players out of their comfort zones, especially Vander Hulst. Reineke had gone to Beijing on a tour two years before, but Vander Hulst's experience with foreign countries was limited to Mexico and the Bahamas. He said the cultural barrier was not too difficult to overcome, however, since most people in New Zealand speak English.

The players were stretched in another way on the tour. At the halftimes of the games, one of the team members would give his testimony and another would share the gospel to the opposing teams and the fans in attendance. This tour was one of the first times Vander Hulst got the chance to witness to many people, and he said he enjoyed it.

"I got to share the gospel at one game and it was really nerve-wracking," he said. "It's definitely intimidating, having to share with a big crowd of people. That was one of the first times



photo by Scott Huck

Marcus Reineke (No. 22) took his Christian testimony from the basketball court to New Zealand in 2013 with Athletes in Action.

I've been able to do that, so it was a really good experience."

They reached out to the fans, talking to them after games and autographing player cards that had Bible verses on them. But the witnessing didn't stop there. They reached out to strangers while waiting for their flights in the airports as well.

Reineke said watching people come to Christ was his favorite part of the trip.

"We had a player from the Junior National Team that was saved," he said. "There is nothing better than seeing that and being a part of it."

For Vander Hulst, the best part was meeting other basketball players and seeing how they were having an impact at their schools.

"We go to a Christian school, so it's kind of assumed that we're Christians," he said,

"but the guys that go to the bigger schools, Valparaiso and Eastern Kentucky, just to see them acting in their schools and making a difference for Christ."

The team was able to do some sightseeing, visiting several mountains and beaches, but its members did not forget the reason they were in New Zealand. The two Cedarville players said they grew on the trip and they hope to do another trip soon.

Reineke said he was reminded of how many people in the world are lost and are in need of hope.

"I think God revealed to me just how many unsaved people we have in the world, going to such a beautiful country that a lot of people probably think to be perfect has a lot of lost people," Reineke said.

Vander Hulst said he became more comfortable with sharing his faith with strangers, and he learned to put his life into perspective.

"I think I learned a lot about basketball not being my identity," he said. "When you grow up playing a sport that you're good at, you tend to put your identity in it, and I think I really learned that basketball isn't what defines me. It's being a Christian, because basketball can be taken away from me any time."

**"I really learned that basketball isn't what defines you. It's being a Christian, because basketball can be taken away from me any time."**

*Lane Vander Hulst*

Cedarville basketball player



*Jon Gallardo is a junior journalism major and sports editor for Cedars. He enjoys playing basketball, reading Tolkien and Dr. Seuss, writing fiction and poetry, and listening to Hans Zimmer and August Burns Red.*



# Just Sayin'... Lollipop



*by Erik Johnson*

**I**t was a warm fall night. Clouds filled the sky, blocking any light from the moon and stars.

The only reason we could see ahead of us was the headlamps two or three of us had grabbed before heading out for the run. We were all freshmen on the cross country team at Cedarville.

It was Labor Day weekend and we had decided it would be fun to go running in the dark on some back roads none of us had been down before. We spent the run trying to learn more about each other, talking about our goals and dreams for our schooling and running careers. We did not know entirely where we were going, but we knew we would be fine as long as we stayed together.

There have been so many similar runs with those guys during my time here. But in the last month or so, our conversations have started to shift. Where once we were all talking about our future at Cedarville, now we spend

a lot of time telling stories from the past few years and planning out things we want to do together before we go our separate ways.

I have had mixed emotions as this school year slowly heads toward the final month or so. In one sense, I cannot wait to be done with school. I have never been great with homework and projects, and it will be nice to finally have a break from them.

On the other hand, I realize that a significant chapter in my life is about to end. Friendships that have pulled me through good and bad times here will always exist at some level, but it will be time for us all to go our separate ways for the most part.

That mixture of feelings has caused some interesting tension in how I spend my time. School is important, and passing classes needs to be a priority. As much as I hate to admit it, school is why I am here. But at the same time, I am trying to take advantage of every moment I have with these friends that have become more like family to me.

There is still a little bit of time left in the school year. And if there is one thing I want you to understand before your time at Cedarville is over, no matter who you are, it is that the work will always be there. Schoolwork. Homework. A job. But most people will only be there for a season. Don't miss the people.

That isn't an excuse to shirk responsibilities.

But I am not sure I would have made it as far as I have without the friends I made along the way. Sometimes the best thing you can do is turn off the electronics and take a walk with a good friend.

We may not have very long with each other here at Cedarville, but let's take the opportunity to go deeper with one another and truly invest in the lives of those around us.

There aren't many roads in the area we haven't explored at some point during our runs at Cedarville. We know how just about any road we run down will finish and where we will come out. Even in the dark. And we still talk about our plans for the future.

But it never escapes me that this time the future is not something we are going to face as a group. And while we have an idea of where we want to go, it's impossible to know where all of us will end up.

Maybe there is more I could say, but it is March Madness season and my friends are telling me to wrap this article up by just writing the word "lollipop" for the rest of the column so I can watch the games with them. Work will always be there, but don't forget the people.

Lollipop.

*Erik Johnson is a senior journalism major and columnist for Cedars. He competes on the track team. Follow him @walkingtheedge9.*

Tell Erik what you would like him to write about. Send your questions, comments or concerns to [erikcjohnson@cedarville.edu](mailto:erikcjohnson@cedarville.edu)



# CedarMania 2015

*photos by Jillian Philyaw and Kyria Luxon*



Top: This year's CedarMania theme "Rooted: What Grows You Is What Fuels You" was taken from Ephesians 3:14-19. Cedarville's HeartSong led worship for the event. Photo by Jillian Philyaw

Left: CedarMania students participate in team-building games during CedarMania. Photo by Kyria Luxon

Right: Apex Community pastor Rob Turner delivered two messages to middle- and high-school students that urged them to keep the foundation for their faith. Photo by Jillian Philyaw

